

NASHUA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monday, April 24, 2017 6:30 p.m. – Room 208, City Hall

Members:

Robert Sampson, Chair
Ald. David Schoneman
Mariellen MacKay
Ed Weber
Chris Barrett

Also present:

Carter Falk, Deputy Planning Manager/Zoning

MINUTES:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Expansion of the Historic District:

Mr. Sampson said that the appropriate action would be to recommend to the Aldermen an Ordinance to expand the district. He said it would be to have Greeley Park and Swart Terrace, and Berkeley Street as separate activity, or to combine them all in one Ordinance. He said that we've heard from some of the Greeley Park people saying they'd like to see it as a separate action. He said he was going to call someone on the Friends of Greeley Park.

Mr. Weber said that we could ask the Aldermen to accept a Part 1 and a Part 2, Part 3.

Mr. Sampson said if we make two separate recommendations, Greeley Park and Swart Terrace/Berkeley Street.

Mrs. MacKay said that she recalled that Swart Terrace really spoke against it.

Mr. Sampson said that they were quite opposed at that one meeting.

Mr. Weber said that the Aldermen could get a lot of negative feedback from that, and if we put it all as one, then it's all gone.

Mr. Sampson agreed.

Mr. Falk said it might be easier to do them both separately, to have Greeley Park as one Ordinance, and Berkeley Street including the intersection of Berkeley Street and Swart. He said that at last summer's Ward 3 meeting, those people were not supportive.

Mrs. MacKay said she wouldn't put them in there.

Mr. Weber said that they were really negative, they'll call the Aldermen and say no way.

Mrs. MacKay said she wouldn't put them on at all. She said that if we add them, they would respond by saying that we didn't hear anything they said, so out of consideration for all the people that came, all the comments that were made, she said that we should leave Swart for another day.

Mr. Weber said that if we include Swart Terrace, they may bring a lot of negative feelings to the Aldermen, and the whole thing will be shelved.

Mr. Sampson said Swart Terrace is out.

Mr. Weber said that it would be only those houses at the intersection, so that Swart Terrace knows that we're only talking about those houses that abut Berkeley Street.

Ald. Schoneman asked if any of those houses face Swart, or are they all Berkeley Street houses.

Mr. Sampson said that the one at the south intersection faces Berkeley Street, which is a stucco one, sort of a Tudor style. He said that if we say Berkeley Street, those houses at the intersection are on Berkeley Street.

Ald. Schoneman asked about a house at the intersection and asked if it was on Concord Street or Swart Terrace.

Mr. Sampson said that it faces Swart Street.

Mrs. MacKay asked if this is the house with a driveway on Concord Street.

Mr. Weber said that we should have all their addresses, and have a list of the addresses on Berkeley that we want to include, so that there is no question what we're looking for.

Ald. Schoneman said that there is a distinction between Swart Street and Swart Terrace.

Mr. Weber said that he sent Mr. Falk some pictures of some modern houses that were built right next door to some historical houses, so this is what can happen without a historic district. He said it's something to show the Aldermen what can happen.

Ald. Schoneman asked whether we do this in two steps, introduce one and get it passed, and then introduce the second one, perhaps Greeley first, get it through the process.

Mr. Barrett said then it would be a logical step.

Ald. Schoneman said that we don't want to surprise people. He said we can relay to the Alderman that we're doing Greeley Park now, and then introduce legislation for Berkeley.

Mr. Sampson said that we would recommend both Greeley Park and Berkeley Street at the same time.

Mr. Weber said he thinks it would be a good idea to just to Greeley Park and present that, and the next month, after that process is done, unless it's going to take months and months, but if it just takes a month, see how it went, and then do the other one.

Mr. Sampson asked if it's better than offering two recommendations at the same time.

Mr. Weber said we would get a feeling on how the Aldermen are thinking about this, and one's easy to do, and the other one will require a lot of feedback from the community. He said no one will be upset about Greeley Park.

Mr. Sampson said that a Resolution can be introduced for Greeley Park and one for Berkeley Street and they can be debated and considered separately, he said his concern is that if you just do Greeley Park and people will be asking about Berkeley Street, and the best we could say is that we're going to be recommending that next month, and a logical question might be, if you're going to be recommending it next month, why not do it at one set of hearings and get it over with.

Ald. Schoneman said another way to do it is to do it in one Resolution, with a Part 1 and a Part 2, and ultimately, it can easily be separated if the Aldermen say that they don't want to do Berkeley Street.

Mrs. MacKay asked if this is introduced, would it have to go to another Committee, with comments, questions, hearings, and would that process be easier with just Greeley Park, or with both.

Ald. Schoneman said that there may have to be a public hearing, he said he's not sure. He said that it will get assigned to a Committee, there will be a Resolution that gets read at a Board of Alderman meeting, gets assigned to a Committee where there will be discussion and potentially public comment. He said that if there is a public hearing required, we'll have to go through that process, he said he's not sure.

Mr. Weber said that there probably will have to be a public hearing for Greeley Park no matter what.

Ald. Schoneman said that once it's out of Committee, it'll go back to the full Board.

Mrs. MacKay said that her fear is that for Greeley Park, everybody is all happy because they want to protect it, but what if half of Berkeley Street says yes, and the other half says no, and people are screaming. She asked if the best way to accomplish it. She asked if we put it in and to say that the Historic Districts long range plan is to include this street, or not even acknowledge that we have a long range plan.

Mr. Barrett said it's important.

Mr. Sampson said that people already know, the word is out. He said that the Telegraph called him and asked for input as they were doing a story on it, but wasn't home when they called.

Ald. Schoneman said he recommends doing it as two.

Mr. Weber said yes, two different Resolutions.

Ald. Schoneman said that they can get one going, and we'll find out what the process is for the first one. He said that public hearings are always scheduled farther out. He said that if we find out that that's going to be the case, then we can begin the process of introducing the second one, we don't need to wait all the while, and there will be two sets of hearings, but they'll be separate, and one will through and one may go through.

Mr. Sampson said that it sounds like it's a motion we want to make, a motion to the Board of Aldermen that we want to make Greeley Park part of the Historic District.

MOTION by Mrs. MacKay to recommend to the Board of Aldermen an Ordinance to make Greeley Park part of the Historic District.

SECONDED by Mr. Weber

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Weber asked about another Motion to convey to the Alderman the sense of the meeting was that we would, at an appropriate time in the near future, recommend action regarding Berkeley Street for inclusion into the Historic District.

Mr. Barrett said that it should be part of the initial motion.

Mr. Sampson said that that motion is already passed.

MOTION by Mr. Barrett that the Historic District Commission has every intention to bring up Berkeley Street and include that into the Historic District at a later time.

SECONDED by Mr. Weber

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ald. Schoneman said he can start working on that, and will put it into the Legislative Office. He asked if Mr. Falk can send him a map that only includes Greeley Park on it, and will include that in the email to the Legal Department.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CF/cf